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political events, such as Brittany, Normandy, Burgundy, Lorraine, etc., or names of old-time counties, such as Valois, Gâtinais, Vexin, etc. The second group is characterized by the derivation of the country name from the name of the city, such as Montois, Laonnais, Soissonnais, etc., each meaning simply the environs of that respective city, and hence without any special geographical value. The third is the really geographical group, because the names belonging to it have been in use for centuries without ever designating any political division, such as Beauce, Brie, etc. They were used, indeed, to designate ecclesiastic subdivisions, dioceses and the like; but in each case the name was older than its clerical use, and the clerical division was named after the country, not *vice versa*. So there is no doubt that with regard to these names the popular nomenclature originated in the character of the country itself. Those distinctive features which characterize the region to which such a name applies are as a rule its agricultural aspects, which is no wonder in a country so eminently agricultural as France. While, of course, geological differences underlie these more superficial criteria, there is no direct connection between them and the popular conception of the name. Thus Beauce, for instance, while coinciding with the limestone plateau which extends toward the Loire River south of Paris, is to the peasant the rich wheat country. Gâtinais, on the other hand, while historically the country on both sides of the Loing River, has, under the influence of different geographical conditions, suffered a restriction of the popular signification of the name: at present Gâtinais means the country of vineyards on the western bank of that river, while the country on its eastern bank, a country of orchards and cider, is popularly distinguished from it as Puisaye. Still another case is that of Multien, which once meant the country around Meaux, but under the influence of the famous Beauce, whose culture extended into it, the name disappeared in the part adjoining that region and what is now left of it is localized in the northern part of its former area, so that Meaux itself does not belong to it any more—a case of migration and restriction of a country name which resembles very closely the fate of the name of Saxony on German soil, save that in the latter case the change was due to political instead of cultural, factors. The chief cities of these natural regions are not, as a rule, located in the centre, but owing to the fact that the “country” name designates an economic or cultural unit, they have sprung up along the boundaries of the various regions, under the influence of the contact of contrasting products, and the exchange and commerce connected with them.

The appendices are no less valuable than the text. One of them contains a practically complete cartography of the Parisian region because, in his consultations of the old maps with regard to the use of the names, the author handled almost every one of them that is accessible and was able to make a classified catalogue of them which is in itself a very valuable contribution to the historical geography of this part of France. Eight plates reproduce the most interesting features of some of these maps.

M. K. G.

**Le Berry. Contribution à l'étude géographique d'une région française. By Antoine Vacher of the University of Rennes.**

Paris, 1908. Librairie Armand Colin. Pr., 15 fr.

The old province of Berry, the country inside the great bend of the Loire River, is one of the historico-geographic divisions of France. The author wishes to determine if it is the product of purely political influences, or if natural factors have entered into its becoming such a well-defined unit. With this point in view,

he has worked up the entire physical geography of the country inclusive of its conditions in past ages, from the first remarks about the country of the Bituriges in Cæsar down to the present. He thus finds that its natural boundary originated in a region of swamps along its southern border whose condition, even with the improvements of modern times, still shows a marked contrast with the intensely agricultural character of the Berry proper. Politically it changed from a Roman *oppidum* to a mediæval diocese, and a feudal duchy, until it was divided up into "départements" during the Revolution, so that the old name survived only as a "nom de pays." Political and geographical conditions have thus worked hand in hand to produce a geographical unit of well-defined individuality. The name of "contribution" to the geography of this region is very modestly chosen, as hardly any aspect of its physical geography has been left untouched. Its boundaries old and new, its cartography, topography, hydrography, climate, are exhaustively treated. A short analysis of the "noms de pays" current in this region forms the conclusion of the book, which is amply illustrated with plates, diagrams, charts, and tables.

M. K. GENTHE.

**The Face of the Earth (Das Antlitz der Erde). By Eduard Suess.**

Translated by H. B. C. Sollas under the direction of W. J. Sollas. Vol. II, pp. vi and 556; Vol. III, pp. vii and 400, Maps, plates and text ill. The Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1906, 1908.\*

At last all the English-speaking world has its own version of the whole of Suess's wonderful treatise upon the physiographic geology of the globe, as far as it has appeared in the original German. For many years this work has been familiar to the scientific world in its German form, and its influence has been vastly extended by the masterly version published in French in 1897, 1900 and 1902 by E. de Margerie and a coterie of authoritative collaborators. The French edition brought each volume up to the date of its appearance by supplementing the original with intercalated paragraphs, references and illustrations showing the advance of the rapidly growing science. The English version, however, is an exact translation, paragraph by paragraph, without note or comment or added reference or figure, and therefore shows the state of the science of geology, as it existed just prior to the publication of the German volumes eighteen to twenty-five years ago, without taking into account the vast advances of the intervening period. Although the English version is a mere translation, it has been made by masters of geology as well as of English, and the usually idiomatic language used carries the reader along through the presentation of facts and theories in the charming manner of the original. The clearness of Suess's style pervades the translation, so that the book is adapted to the lay as well as the professional reader and should find extensive circulation. In the rendition of the third volume, Professor Sollas has associated with himself nine English Colonial and American geologists of international reputation, but, to quote from the translator's preface, "The reverence due to a great classic has restrained us in this, as in previous volumes, from taking any liberties with the text, whether by comment or emendation. Our sole aim has been a faithful rendering."

The general public should understand at the outset that the title of this work, "The Face of the Earth," hardly gives an adequate idea of its scope and character. It is not a mere description of the earth's surface; in fact word pictures of scenery are not to be found in it. On the contrary, it is an exhaustive treatise

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\* Vol. I was reviewed in the Bulletin, Vol. 38, pp. 325-327, 1906.